

# RALEIGH PUBLIC SCHOOL



**Nurturing Children in an Innovative and Creative Environment**

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Newsletter, Term 1, Week 2

2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2021

3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Kindergarten start
10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Kids in the Kitchen, \$18 for the term
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Small Schools Swimming Carnival for 8 yrs and over
17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Postponed Big Banana Rewards Day

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back, I hope everyone had a safe and relaxing holiday. It has been wonderful to see all of our returning students and hear about the things they have been doing during the break. We are all looking forward to having our Kindergarten students join us tomorrow for their first day! Last week was officially Week 1, so we are already into Week 2 of 2021!

A huge thank you to Renae Pike, who has continued to look after our school chickens over the holiday break.



As we return to school most of the restrictions and guidelines remain in place from 2020. The Term 1, 2021 COVID guidelines have been updated in line with the advice from NSW Health for the beginning of 2021. Many of the restrictions that were in place in November 2020, have been maintained due to the current COVID-19 situation impacting NSW.

Students, staff and visitors must not attend school if they are unwell. This includes even very mild or minor flu-like symptoms. If they become unwell while at school they should leave immediately and not return until they have a negative COVID-19 test and are symptom-free.

Parents and carers are not allowed on school sites or at an offsite school event held during school hours except for the purposes that follow with a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place.

Parents and carers can:

- Enter the school grounds to purchase or pick-up uniforms from the front office. We ask that you call (66554228) prior to coming and entering the school to ensure Irene is available.
- Drop of Kindergarten students in the first few weeks, however we encourage all families (K-6) to drop their child at the gate or travel by bus where appropriate.
- Meet with school staff with an appointment.

All adults visiting a school must comply with the department's COVID safe requirements including personal hygiene, infection control and physical distancing guidelines. All visitors must sign in using the Services NSW QR code and the external visitors form each time they visit the school regardless of the frequency and duration of the visit.

The enhanced cleaning before school and after lunch will continue.

## Staffing for 2021

This year we will have the following staff at Raleigh:

- Ms Bernadette Driscoll – K-2 class
- Mrs Katrina Meenahan – Teaching Principal and 3-6 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
- Mrs Danielle Corcoran (Miss E) – 3-6 class Thursday and Friday (for Katrina's Principal's release)
- Mr Jamie Sherwood – Wednesday RFF – half day on K-2 and part day on 3-6
- Mrs Irene Jones – Monday (odd weeks), Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Jimmy Johnson – General Assistant – Thursday

It is very sad to have to inform our school community that Mei Wei Lim, has decided to stay out of schools again in 2021 with the ongoing COVID situation. We will miss having Mei with us and hope that the situation will change in the future and we will see her again soon.

## Being Ready for School Each day

Students need to be ready and settled to learn each day at school. This is achieved by having a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast before school each day. It is recommended that 6-13 year olds have between 9 and 11 hours of sleep each night.

It is important that everything your child brings to school is clearly labelled with your child's name. This includes: clothing, pencils, drink bottles, pencil cases, lunch boxes and containers. Please regularly check if the names on washable items need to be reapplied as they often wash off or become hard to read.

Students need to have the following packed each day:

- Lunchbox with ice brick, crunch and sip, recess and lunch. We continue to encourage all students to have Package Free lunches. Lollies, chocolates, chips and high sugar and process foods are discouraged at Raleigh. We aim for healthy foods that help to feed student's brains and bodies for learning and activity.
- Water bottle- these can be refilled at school if needed
- On Tuesday's – all students are encouraged to bring a bag to borrow library books. This does not need to be a specific bag. It might be a calico bag, reusable shopping bag or even a pillow case.
- Kinder students need their Jolly Phonics folders daily
- K-2 Reading folders returned each Friday to school so they can be changed and sent home on Monday.

## School Uniform



At Raleigh Public School our students wear their uniforms with pride each day to school and they are seen by the local community when they are outside of school grounds, at the bus stop, in the community and hopefully on excursions. It was wonderful to see that many of our students had new dark coloured joggers for school. Joggers are the most comfortable and supportive footwear to wear, as they are easy to play in and be active during PE and sport lessons.

## Extra Curricular Activities

With the easing of restrictions, we will be participating in the following activities in Term 1 and hopefully beyond:

- Kids in the Kitchen (KiK) - Odd weeks on Wednesday starting in Week 3, 10<sup>th</sup> February. We will have four KiK sessions each term.
- Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) will run on Wednesday in the even weeks.
- School Chickens- students from 3-6 will be put on a roster and will help to feed, water and collect eggs.
- Kitchen Garden- Our new garden fence and netting has been completed and the students will be on a roster to water the garden a couple of times a week. All students will participate in Gardening Groups on a Friday and will with the Vegetable garden.



## Small Schools Swimming Carnival

Our Year 3-6 students will be attending the Small Schools Swimming Carnival at Bellingen Pool on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. A note was sent home last week and needs to be returned by this Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February. All parents are to transport their child/children to and from the carnival. If you are having difficulty with transport, or have any questions or concerns to discuss, please contact Katrina.

## Scripture in Semester 1

This Semester our scripture (School Religion Education -SRE) teacher Mrs Helen Chapman, will be unable to attend due to personal reasons. The local School Religion Education coordinator has tried to find us a replacement SRE teacher for the first semester, however this has been made difficult with COVID. So in Semester 1 we will not be running any SRE lessons. We hope to have Mrs Chapman join us again in Term 3.

## Big Banana Rewards Day

At the end of last year our whole school was so excited to finally be able to do something outside of school as a reward for their great achievements and behaviour in 2020. It was also going to be a fun activity to end a year where many activities and events were unable to run. Unfortunately, the flood stopped this excursion last year, but we were able to transfer our booking and it will run on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February. A new note will be sent home this week, the majority of students have already paid and will just need to return the updated permission note. We are all looking forward to this excursion!

Regards, Katrina Meenahan